

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 38 (canceled)

39. (original) A process for the production of homogenous single phase thickened beverages by a dispensing machine that is capable of dispensing non-thickened beverages.

40. (original) A process in accordance with Claim 39 wherein the dispensing machine includes a container of thickener concentrate, a metering pump and an in-line static mixer designed such that beverages exit the dispenser at the correct thickness, with a homogenous appearance and are ready to drink, whether the beverage thickness is increased by inclusion of the thickener concentrate or not.

41. (original) A process in accordance with Claim 39 wherein the dispensing machine includes a container of thickener concentrate, a metering pump and an exit nozzle with a narrow gap or pressure drop or and liquid foods exit the dispenser at the correct thickness, with a homogenous appearance and are ready to drink, whether the beverage thickness is increased by inclusion of the thickener concentrate or not.

42. (previously presented) A process in accordance with Claim 39 wherein the thickener used in the thickener concentrate is one or more of alginates (sodium, potassium, or ammonium salts), carrageenan, cellulose selected from sodium

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carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, locust bean gum, guar gum or xanthan gum

43. (original) A process in accordance with Claim 42 where the thickener is xanthan gum.

44. (original) A process in accordance with Claim 42 where the xanthan gum is between 0.005% and 10% of the thickener concentrate.

45. (original) A process in accordance with Claim 42 where the xanthan gum is between 0.05% and 5% of the thickener concentrate.

46. – 56. canceled